

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 10, 2014

Agenda Item: License and Funding Advisory Council Update

Division: Director's Office

Action Needed: Information Only

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

Background

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the F&W Commission about the recommendations of the License and Funding Advisory Council, answer any questions that may arise and solicit feedback. F&W Commission Chair Dan Vermillion served on the LFAC.

In July 2013, Director Hagener appointed 13 Montanan's to the LFAC. The council was charged with:

- evaluating options and recommending approaches for improving the structural balance of fish and wildlife funding;
- proposing changes to streamline and simplify FWP's license structure;
- assessing the impact of free and discounted price licenses and proposing modification to these licenses;
- evaluating the earmarking of hunting and fishing license revenue;
- proposing prices for fishing and hunting licenses that will result in a sufficient and stable funding source for fish and wildlife management; and
- evaluating the appropriate role of both license buyers and other fish and wildlife users in funding fish and wildlife management.

The LFAC met monthly since August 2013 and developed preliminary recommendations to Director Hagener and the Environmental Quality Council. These recommendations will be finalized at a meeting on April 17. FWP will then conduct a public outreach process to inform the public about the LFAC's recommendations and to solicit feedback. This information will then inform Director Hagener's decisions about what legislation FWP will propose to the 2015 Legislature.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The LFAC recommendations were developed by a citizen's advisory committee over eight meeting between August 2013 and March 2014. There was extensive opportunity for public comment throughout the process via public comment periods at meeting, written comments on the FWP webpage, verbal comments to LFAC members as well as FWP staff, and at meeting of the legislature's Environmental Quality Council. Additionally, there was extensive media coverage of the LFAC's work.

Alternatives and Analysis

Information only. No decision to be made by the Commission.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Information only. No decision to be made by the Commission.

Proposed Motion

None needed.